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OSD Declassification/Release Instructions on File

December 8, 1952

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

Recently, I discussed with the President the desirability of sponsoring legislation to strengthen laws concerned with security in order to facilitate taking criminal action against those who disseminate classified information unlawfully, including intermediaries, columnists, or newspapers that publish or cause to be published such information. I suggested that the Executive Branch of the Government recommend legislation on this subject and the President approved that suggestion.

Since that time it has been learned that the Department of Justice has given preliminary study to such a proposal in the form of an amendment to section 793 of title 18 of the United States Code. If this information is correct, it would appear that the Department of Defense, in lieu of initiating a legislative proposal of its own on this subject, should support the proposal which the Department of Justice is proposing.

Insofar as the Department of Defense is concerned, enactment of such remedial legislation is considered of great importance, and I wish by this letter to advise you that the Department is ready to furnish to the Department of Justice maximum assistance in defending such legislation before the Congress.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) ROBERT A. LOVETT

The Honorable
The Attorney General

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